

Clean Version of Amended Claims and Newly Added Claims

Please amend claims 1, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 19 as follows:

A1
1. (Amended) A process for aiding a user in developing a search request, comprising
presenting to the user an interface for collecting from the user a keyphrase
representative of a user search request,
analyzing said user search request to identify at least one meaning associated with
said user search request,
processing said user search request and said at least one meaning to generate an
expanded search request represented as a boolean search strategy, wherein the expanded search
request includes related terms not defined or chosen by the user, the related terms being amended
to the user search request and the one meaning in a weighted string; and
providing said expanded search request to a search engine capable of identifying
information associated with said expanded search request.

A2
10. A process according to claim 1, wherein analyzing a search request includes
generating a user linguistic database for the user, wherein the linguistic database is separate from
the knowledgebase, and wherein the linguistic database is representative of keyphrases and
associated user-defined meanings.

A3
13. (Amended) A process according to claim 12, including the employing said keyphrase
to access said user linguistic database and identify a sense signal associated with said keyphrase.

A4
15. (Amended) A system for aiding a user in developing a search request, comprising
a linguistic knowledgebase having information representative of a list of sense
signals, each sense signal being information for describing a linguistic meaning, and a list of
weighted and unweighted words, wherein weighted words are weighted in relation to a potential
query term;

A4
a controller for generating an interface for collecting from the user a keyphrase representative of a user search request, and for employing said keyphrase to access information from said linguistic knowledgebase to generate an expanded search request, and

a query mechanism for processing said expanded search request to generate a set of boolean search requests, each associated with at least one preselected search engine, wherein each of the boolean search requests corresponds to the expanded search request; and for providing each said boolean search request to a respective preselected search engine.

A5
17. (Amended) A system according to claim 15, further comprising:

a mechanism for generating a user linguistic database for the user, wherein the user linguistic database is separate from the linguistic knowledgebase, and wherein the user linguistic database is representative of keyphrases and associated user-defined meanings.

A6
19. (Amended) A system according to claim 15, wherein said controller further includes

means for accessing flag signals from said linguistic knowledgebase, wherein the flag signals are associated with a sense signal and identify a condition of use of words associated with that sense signal in the generation of the expanded search request.

Please add claims 21-24

21. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the expanded search includes a NOT operator in association with a related term.

A7
22. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the related terms are weighted in accordance with the relevance of the related term to the search request and the one meaning.

23. (New) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein each boolean search request is formatted in accordance with the respective preselected search engine.

A7 24. (New) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the query mechanism receives search results from each preselected search engine, and further comprising:

a merger module, wherein the merger module processes the search results received from each preselected search engine for presentation to the user, wherein each entry in the search results is weighted based upon the relevance of the entry in relation to the terms of the original expanded search request.
